



AUTUMN

Diversity Update

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The National Weather Service is committed to a workplace in which all people are respected as individuals and are valued for their contributions to accomplishing the National Weather Service Mission. We foster an inclusive, supportive, open and innovative work environment to enable all our employees to be positive, creative and reach their full potential.



Hispanics have increased their presence in Arkansas during the past 10 or 15 years. Most of this migration into the state has taken place in the northwest quadrant, in cities such as Danville, Russellville, Ola, Dardanelle, Rogers, Fayetteville and Little Rock.



The Hispanic community is diverse within itself. Some of its members come from central America and south America, where they do not experience the same weather hazards nor

with the same frequency or intensity that we have in this part of the United States. Even those Hispanics who have moved here from other parts of our country may not have been exposed to our particular weather hazards in Arkansas; such as those that came from southern California. WFO Little Rock is making an effort to reach this segment of our population by participating in Resource Fairs sponsored by the Arkansas River Valley Area Council (ARVAC). The format of these fairs has been a gathering of representatives from a variety of agencies, both public and private. Some of the groups represented have been the

Arkansas Red Cross, local hospitals, the Internal Revenue Service, the State Health Department, the Social Security Administration, local churches, Housing and Urban Development, local Realtors, local lenders and the National Weather Service. These representatives set up tables and/or displays with information in English and Spanish when available. Also, many of the representatives themselves speak Spanish. Members of the community in general and Hispanics in particular are invited to visit the fair and talk with the representatives present. They are encouraged to ask questions to clarify procedures or requirement from the different groups. They are encouraged as well to take pamphlets and brochures offered by the different groups.

WFO Little Rock has been present at three of these fairs, beginning late last year. The first fair was on October 25th, 2001 at Danville. The second one was held on March 28th, 2002 at Dardanelle; and the last one was on April 25th, 2002 at Clarksville. I represented the Weather Service on all three occasions.

Members of the Hispanic community have received the fairs well and have been very appreciative of the efforts made to reach them with useful and important information.

On another aspect of outreach, Arkansas Nuclear One, a part of the Entergy system, has cooperated with the National Weather Service to bring a NOAA Weather Radio



transmitter to the Russellville area. Besides weather information, this transmitter will be used to inform the public of nuclear incidents or accidents. There are several forms to be used for the different types of situations. I have translated into Spanish the information for each of these forms. If the need should arise, myself or Salvador Gutiérrez, another journey level forecaster, would record the information on NWR in Spanish.